(d) The Propanganda on the needs of family welfare planning, pre-natal care of expecting mothers, infant care, balanced diet, prevention of communicable and epidemic diseases is being promoted with the cooperation of the State Governments through the use of radio, T.V. and other mass-media as well an interpersonal contacts.

298. *[Transferred to 4th December, 1902]*

Assessment about prevalence of AIDS in India

299. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest Government's assessment in regard to the prevalence of AIDS in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that Slums and squatters' settclcmcnts are fastly becoming breeding grounds for this disease and its spread to the rural area; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The number of detected cases of HIV infection in the country as on 31.10.1992 is 10,856. This sample is largely confined to the high risk behaviour group. The Government has not done so far any prevalence study of the general population.

(b) There are no empirical studies to show that slums and squatters' settlements arc becoming breeding grounds for this disease.

(c) AIDS at present has no cure. The Government, therefore, is laying stress on the preventive strategies based on raising the level of awareness in the community and the people, increasing blood safety and its rational use, strengthening the sexually transmitted diseases Control Programme and improving Clinical Management and Surveillance.

Deputation to the WHO

300. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare who are on deputation to the WHO;

(b) the number of employees who left their job and joined the WHO during the last three years; and

(c) what is the number of employees of State Governments who have joined theWHO during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA):
(a) Nil.

(b) One.

(c) Nil.

Medical personnel going abroad

301. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMI LY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of medical personnel employed with Government who had gone abroad to attend various medical conferences during the last three years;

(b) what was the amount of expenditure incurred on them; and

(c) whether any evaluation had been made about the advantages of incurring such an expenditure on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) During the last three years, the following number of medical and non-medical personnel have been permitted by this Ministry to attend various medical conferences aborad:—

1989	111
1990	90
1991	94

(b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not have any scheme to finance expenditure of persons going aborad to attend conferences. In some cases, the organisers of the Conference meet the expenditure; in some cases, concerned institution meet partial expenditure and the rest is borne by the participants or through grants received by them from University Grants Commission, Indian National Science Academy etc. etc.

(c) No regular evaluation has been made. However, the participation of the doctors improves their knowledge and skills as well as they learn the latest tools & techniques in their respective medical and surgical fields in the advanced countries. This ultimately leads to better patient care.

Financial assistance to Medical Conferences

302. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of conferences of national and state level Medical personnel, for which financial assistance was given by Government during the last year;

(b) what is the total amount of such assistance; and

(c) whether Government have evaluated the utility of such conferences and giants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Population in India

303. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population of India is likely to cross that of China by the year 2035;

(b) what are the steps Government propose to take to reduce the population growth in the country; and

(c) whether any planning has been made to control the population growth in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) As per World population Projections "1950-2150" brought out by the United Nations, the estimated and projected population of India and China based on the medium fertility extension, during 2025-2050 A.D. will be as follows:—

(Figures in million)

No precise estimates are readily available for 2035 A.D.

	2025 AD	*2050 AD*
China	1511	1521
India	1442	1699

(b) and (c) An Action Plan duly approved by the Health Ministers of States is being operationalised. The Action Plan highlights the need for evolving a national consensus in support of the Family Welfare Programme to obtain the willing participation of all Sections of the Society. Its key features include, (1) improving the quality and outreach of family welfare services, (2) differential strategy for special focus on 90 poor performing districts (Birth Rate of 39 per thousand population and above as per the 1981 Census), (3) developing a mechanism to make